ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to express my gratitude to my supervisor, Dr. Devi Sirohi, for her unstinted support, encouragement and inspiration. Thanks are due to my department Chairman, Professor Surinder Singh, whose cooperation was readily available, whenever required.

May I thank the staff of the Department of History, Panjab University, Chandigarh, Nehru Memorial Museum Library, New Delhi, National Archives, New Delhi, Parliamentary Library, New Delhi, Punjab State Archives, Patiala, Maharashtra Archives, Mumbai and Jawahar Lal Nehru University Library, New Delhi who helped me a lot in locating the study material.

Should I venture to offer my heartfelt gratitude to my parents and brother for their perennial support and encouragement.

I also overwhelmingly acknowledge the painstaking patience shown by my friend Amar Singh Yadav and my uncle, G.S.Kalha while operating the computers for my study material.

Kudos to my friends Abhishek, Jyotika, Shekhar, Priyanka, Sakshi, Shantanu and Rahul for bringing in whiffs of fresh air whenever monotony threatened to disrupt concentration.

Lastly, no words would, adequately, express my classmate and friend, Gurnam Singh's motivational qualities and instinctive helplines.

Chandigarh

February, 2005.

Shruti Sharma